



# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the latest edition of our Quarterly Tax Newsletter. In this edition, we delve into a topic that is reshaping the landscape of tax administration worldwide: the transformative potential of technology through use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

As tax administrators, we recognize the challenges and complexities that come with our responsibility to ensure fair and efficient tax collection. With the rapid advancement of technology, we find ourselves at a critical juncture where embracing innovation becomes not just an option but a necessity.

AI, particularly Generative AI, offers unprecedented opportunities to revolutionize tax administration. It empowers us to streamline processes, enhance taxpayer experiences, and effectively combat tax evasion, all while maintaining a strong focus on data privacy, security, and ethical considerations.

The potential applications of AI in tax administration are manifold. Imagine leveraging advanced machine learning algorithms to predict late tax payments, identify patterns of non-compliance, and allocate audit resources more effectively. Picture the possibilities of AI-powered chatbots that provide instant assistance to taxpayers, reducing waiting times and enhancing customer service.

However, as we embark on this AI journey, it is vital to ensure robust governance mechanisms. Transparency, ethics, and accountability must be at the forefront of our AI strategies. We must safeguard the privacy of taxpayer data, maintain human oversight in decision-making processes, and establish clear roles and responsibilities for the use of AI.

Collaboration is key to harnessing the full potential of AI. CATA, as a platform for knowledge sharing and cooperation, provides a unique opportunity for member countries to exchange best practices, discuss challenges, and collectively develop frameworks for the responsible implementation of AI in tax administration. Let us leverage this platform to learn from each other, share success stories, and address any concerns or uncertainties together.

Moreover, investing in the training and development of our staff is paramount. Equipping our workforce with the necessary skills to effectively utilize AI technologies ensures a smooth transition and maximizes the benefits derived from these innovations. Through targeted training programs, we can nurture a culture of continuous learning and adaptation.

### Contents:

#### EDITORIAL

#### News from the CATA Secretariat

- OECD Global Relations Programme on taxation
- Asia Initiative Tax Transparency Report released.
- Commonwealth leaders pledge continued unity and empower youth
- CATA 92<sup>nd</sup> Management Committee Meeting held in London
- CATA 43<sup>rd</sup> Technical Conference held successfully in Maldives, 10 - 13 July
- Commonwealth Heads of Government to meet in Samoa in 2024
- New Country Representative For Canada Appointed

#### News from CATA Country Correspondents

- Cyprus
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- United Kingdom

#### Updates from Member's Websites

- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Fiji
- Pakistan
- Sierra Leone
- Seychelles
- Singapore
- Zambia

#### Upcoming Events

- CATA-ATO Cooperative Compliance Workshon. 7<sup>nd</sup>

As we look ahead, let us embrace innovation as a catalyst for positive change to enhance compliance, improve operational efficiency, and foster greater trust between taxpayers and tax authorities.

## **NEWS FROM THE CATA SECRETARIAT**

(Please click on the headlines to view the full articles on the CATA website)

### **[OECD Global Relations Programme on taxation](#)**



The Global Relations Programme (GRP) organises live and self-paced training to bring tax officials up to speed with the Two-Pillar Solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy.

### **[Asia Initiative Tax Transparency Report released](#)**



The 4th high-level meeting of the Global Forum concluded in Delhi, India with the release of the [Tax Transparency in Asia 2023: Asia Initiative Progress Report](#).

### **[Commonwealth leaders pledge continued unity and empower youth](#)**

Ahead of the Coronation, Leaders of Commonwealth member states met with His Majesty King Charles III at Marlborough House, the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

### **[92nd CATA Management Committee Meeting held in London](#)**



Members of the Management Committee met at Marlborough House on Tuesday, 2nd May 2023 for their bi-annual meeting.

### **[CATA 43rd Technical Conference held successfully in Maldives, 10 - 13 July](#)**



The 43<sup>rd</sup> CATA Technical Conference successfully hosted in Maldives during the week 10 - 13<sup>th</sup> July by the Maldives Inland Revenue Authority. Heartfelt gratitude to the Commissioner General Mr. Fathuhulla Jameel and the entire organising committee of MIRA team setting a new standard of excellence and leaving a lasting impression on attendees for the warm hospitality and the splendid planning of the Conference.

The theme was “Role of Data in Tax Compliance Management and Taxation of Hospitality Industry”. MIRA also produced a daily conference newsletter that was both engaging and

informative. [All five news bulletins links are on the CATA TC website.](#)

---

## [Commonwealth Heads of Government to meet in Samoa in 2024](#)



The Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, have announced that the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will be held in Apia, Samoa, beginning on 21 October 2024.

*(Pic Courtesy: Commonwealth Secretariat)*

---

## [New Country Representative For Canada Appointed](#)

Following the retirement of Mr Geoff Trueman, Canada has appointed Mr. Soren Halverson as their new Country Representative to CATA Secretariat.

---

## **NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS** **By CATA Country Correspondents**

(Please click on the given links to view the full articles on the CATA website)

---

### **CYPRUS**



[Cyprus: Our way ahead](#) Cyprus Tax Department (CTD) was established on July 1,

2014, as a result of the integration of the "Inland Revenue Department" and "Value Added Tax (V.A.T.) Services," which, until that time, were operating under two different and independent administrations.

---

### **KENYA**



[Kenya Records 30% Revenue Growth from Interlinking Betting Firms to the Revenue Authority's System:](#) Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has successfully integrated the three batches of betting companies (36 companies) to real time remittance of Excise Duty and Withholding Tax on Winnings and data transmission.

---

### **MALAYSIA**



[Malaysian Tax Academy Malaysia hosted the Workshop on The Implementation of Pillar Two 9 - 11 April 2023:](#) Discussing this topic for ATAIC members and also brought together members from various international organisations.

---

### **MALDIVES**



[The Maldives Inland Revenue Authority \(MIRA\) launches "Fansa-aahi" Campaign:](#) The objective of this campaign is to deregister businesses no longer in operation and to enhance the rate of on-time submission rate of tax returns as it is crucial for the effective running of the tax system.

---

### **MAURITIUS**



[Some salient features of Budget Measures 2023-2024:](#) The Budget Speech 2023-2024 was

delivered by the Minister of Finance on the 2nd of June 2023. The salient features on some of the tax measures as announced by The Mauritius Revenue Authority.

---

## NIGERIA



[Tax Administrators Must Match](#): The Pace of Global Technological Advancements and must keep up with the dynamics occasioned by disruptive new technologies of the 21st century. – CATA President

[FIRS Signs MoU with UK's HM Revenue and Customs](#) for Collaboration On Capacity Building.

---

## NEW ZEALAND



[New Zealand Issues New CRS Reporting Checklist for Financial Institutions](#)

---

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA



[PNGIRC New Integrated Tax Administration System \(ITAS\) for PNG Tax](#) The Papua New Guinea Internal Revenue Commission (PNG IRC) is seeking bids from established local and international ICT solution companies for the provision of services for the new Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS) project.

[PNGIRC Taxpayer Mapping Exercise](#): In Port Moresby, six teams of IRC officers have embarked on a two-week taxpayer mapping exercise, where they will walk the full extent of the city limits to capture and record, accurate and reliable taxpayer information from as many businesses as possible both registered and unregistered.

---

## UNITED KINGDOM



[Knowledge Sharing Network on the Two-Pillar Solution Launched](#) the UK's HM Revenue and Customs, in collaboration with the OECD's Forum on Tax Administration's Capacity Building Network.

---

## NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS WEBSITES

(Please click on the given links to view the full articles on the members website)

---

## AUSTRALIA



Australian Taxation Office [Latest news on tax and superannuation law and policy](#)

The next level by ATO: [Strategic co-operation and collaboration to combat financial crime](#)

---

## THE BAHAMAS



[Inland Revenue has been garnishing accounts since early April](#)

---

## PAKISTAN



[WORLD BANK AND FBR REVIEWS PROGRESS ON PRR PROJECT](#) FBR Headquarters to review the progress of Pakistan Raises Revenue Program during the last financial year.

---

## SIERRA LEONE



### NRA DISPELS MISCONCEPTIONS ON THE TAX AND DUTY EXEMPTION ACT 2023: The

NRA (The National Revenue Authority of Sierra Leone) assures the general travelling public that in its pursuit to roll out regulations, it will seek the best practice in complying with International Travel regulations.

## SEYCHELLES



SRC CUSTOMS DIGITALIZES EXCISE AND MANIFEST PROCESSES AS PART OF PAPERLESS JOURNEY The customs division of the Seychelles Revenue Commission (SRC) has over these past months introduced two new modules within the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) as part of its paperless journey.

## SINGAPORE



MOF and IRAS Accept Audit Observations in AGO's FY 2022/2023 Report, Commit to Learn and Improve

## ZAMBIA



ZRA, ATAF, IGF TO HOST THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF RESOURCE TAXATION: To ensure realisation of the expected benefits, the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) and the Intergovernmental Forum (IGF) on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF) in conjunction with the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) will host a three-day conference from 26-28, June 2023 at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka.



Duncan Onduru



Gerry Cook



Rasmita Patro

**"A little bit of summer is what the whole year is about." – John Mayer.**